10. Their Royal Highnesses The Prince and Princess of Connought visited the works on 7th March 1925. The Dewan inspected the works after the floods in August 1924.

11. Government are pleased to convey their appreciation of the capacity and resourcefulness shown by the staff as a whole, in dealing with the serious situation caused by the unprecedented floods during the year and the zeal and ability with which the different items of the programme have been carried on. The thanks of the Government are due to the Special Officer, Mr. K. R. Seshachar, not only for his efficient administration during the year but also for the comprehensive manner in which he has taken up the investigation of schemes for the future development of the project.

P. G. D'SOUZA,
Chief Secretary to Government.

REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Report on the Administration of the Revenue Department.

READ—

The *Report on the Administration of the Revenue Department for the year 1924-25 received with the Revenue Commissioner's letter No. C. Per. A. 91—25-26, dated the 14th October 1925.

*(Printed as annexure.)

ORDER NO. R. 3277-85—L. R. 10-25-12, DATED 4TH JANUARY 1926.

Mr. K. Chandy was the Revenue Commissioner till 18th February 1925, when Mr. C. S. Balasundaram Iyer assumed charge of the Office on the elevation of Mr. Chandy as Member of Council. There was no change in the Deputy Commissioners of 4 Districts, *viz.*, Bangalore, Kolar, Tumkur and Shimoga.

SEASONAL CONDITIONS.

2. *Rainfall.*—The rainfall during the year was more copious than in the previous year almost throughout the whole State. The Mungar rains were timely and well distributed, but the hingar rains, were not adequate in parts of Tumkur, Kolar and Chitaldrug Districts and the seasonal conditions particularly in parts of Tumkur and Kolar Districts continued to cause anxiety, though to a smaller extent than in the year previous.

3. *Floods.*—The unprecedented and abnormal floods caused by the heavy rainfall during July and August 1924 in certain parts of the State and also adjoining British Territory brought about the submersion of many river side villages and extensive areas under cultivation in the Districts of Mysore, Kadur, Hassan and Shimoga. The District of Chitaldrug also suffered to some extent. About 655 villages were wholly or partly submerged and 6,070 houses were damaged. Seventy-seven tanks and a number of channels got breached or otherwise damaged. Besides the loss of house and other property valued at about Rs. 5,50,334, about 15,744 acres of lands were damaged, the total extent of damage to movable and immovable property being estimated at about Rs. 9 lakhs. The Dewan, Members of Council, the Revenue Commissioner and the Chief Engineer, toured in the flooded parts. The situation was effectively met with by the several measures of relief sanctioned in the Government resolution of 8th August 1924. A Central Flood Relief Committee at Headquarters and District Committees in the affected parts were formed to collect private subscriptions and enlist public support in carrying out relief measures. Officials and non-officials rose to the occasion and co-operated in relieving distress to the sufferers. The thanks of Government have already been conveyed for the signal services rendered in this connection by the public-spirited private gentlemen and the officers of Government.

To expedite the reconstruction of houses in important river side places like Shimoga, Nanjangud, T.-Narsipur and Talkad which were seriously affected by the floods, House-building Co-operative Societies were organised and about Rs. 1½ lakhs

were placed at their disposal for issuing loans to persons for building houses. Besides the amounts contributed by philanthropic gentlemen and Local Bodies aggregating to Rs. 88,371, a sum of Rs. 5,10,200, was sanctioned by Government for the relief of distress due to floods. The total amount spent on relief in the flood affected areas inclusive of the sum spent out of public subscriptions exceeded 4 lakhs of rupees. Remission of assessment to the extent of Rs. 47,335 was also sanctioned in respect of lands which were damaged or the crops on which were destroyed.

4. *Distress.*—Though the copious Mungar rains considerably relieved the anxiety created by the drought of the previous year in the affected Districts of Kolar and Tumkur, conditions did not sufficiently improve in certain parts of these 2 Districts. To relieve distress to the sufferers in the affected parts, Takavi, Land Improvement and Subsistence Loans were as usual granted. Tank maintenance, village improvement and road works were undertaken to afford work to labouring classes. Gratuitous relief was also given to deserving poor persons. Remissions and suspensions were sanctioned liberally to raiyats, who failed to get their harvests. A sum of Rs. 3,39,378 was allotted by Government for relief measures in the two Districts, of which, Rs. 2,70,953 were expended during the year.

5. *Cattle Mortality.*—It is gratifying to note that the figures of the Cattle Mortality for the State as a whole during the year under report decreased to 82,576 from 121,280 in the previous year. There was, however, an abnormal increase in the number of deaths by disease in one District, *viz.*, Shimoga, where 10,402 head of cattle are reported to have died from rinder pest and kindred diseases. During the year under report the sixth quinquennial Census of Agricultural stock was taken in the State. The Census disclosed a marked decrease in oxen, buffaloes and sheep. The decrease is attributed to the drought which prevailed in 1923-24 and continued in 1924-25, and to the spread of cattle diseases.

Government hope that the public will co-operate with the local officers of the Revenue and Veterinary Departments in the several measures adopted by Government for stamping out the cattle diseases, which have unfortunately broken out in parts of the State during the current year also.

6. *Expansion of Cultivation.*—There was a considerable decrease in the extent of assessed waste lands taken up for cultivation during the year which was 36,337 acres as against 52,670 and 56,453 acres in the 2 previous years.

Out of the surrendered Amrut Mahal Kavals 5,328 acres were sold during the year, realising a sum of Rs. 60,689 as against 5,167 acres in the previous year. It is reported that the more fertile lands have all been disposed of and that the available Kaval lands are not in good demand for cultivation owing to their poor quality or other causes. The progress in the disposal of the phoded kaval lands cannot be considered as satisfactory. Instructions have been issued in Government Order No. R.-1924—L. R. 30-25-6, dated the 25th October 1925, for re-surrendering to the Amrut Mahal Department all such lands as are not fit for cultivation.

The extent of surrendered date groves disposed of for cultivation in the year was 2,147 acres realising Rs. 33,594. A very large area of date reserves of over 3 lakhs of acres is still at the disposal of the Revenue Department. More vigorous steps should be taken to select suitable blocks out of this large extent of land for being phoded and made available for cultivation. With a view to stimulate production and increase the area under cultivation, Government have issued instructions to the District Officers to deal with sympathy applications for grant of unassessed lands for cultivation specially in the Malnad, even though assessed waste lands were available in the locality.

7. *Area under Occupation and Crops.*—The total area under occupation during the year was 7,980,575 acres which shows an increase of 30,699 acres over the occupied area in the previous year. There was an increase also in the net area cropped during the year, being 6,279,520 acres against 5,923,773 acres of previous year.

Except under sugar-cane there was a general rise in the area under select food crops. Owing to favourable seasonal conditions during the year, the outturn of paddy, ragi and sugar-cane was more than an average yield of 8 annas. In a few taluks a 16 anna crop under paddy, ragi, cholum, horsegram and sugar-cane is reported to have been realised.

8. *Darkhasts.*—The total number of darkhasts received during the year was 17,959 as against 12,002 in the previous year. This together with the balance of last year 6,134, give 24,093 darkhasts for disposal during the year, of which, 16,235 were disposed of. The volume of work turned under distress is no doubt greater, but the percentage of disposal is low. There are as many as 708 darkhasts pending for over two years. Special attention should be paid to the disposal of these old applications.

Government regret to note that the preparation of A and B lists has not been completed in Shimoga, Kadur and Tumkur Districts in spite of the observations made in the review on the Administration Report of the previous year. Much of the delay noticed is attributed to the want of understanding of the Government Order on the subject by Revenue Officers. The Deputy Commissioners of Mysore and Chitaldrug have not furnished information about the progress in the preparation and revision of these lists in their Districts. The Revenue Commissioner is requested to obtain full details from all the District Officers and submit his promised report to Government before the end of February 1926.

9. *Military Settlement Scheme.*—The area sanctioned under the Military Settlement Scheme during the year was 399 acres. A large number of applications is pending in the Bangalore, Mysore, Tumkur and Kolar Districts. There is considerable delay in the disposal of these darkhasts. Speedier action is called for.

10. *Grant of Lands to the Depressed and Landless Classes.*—During the year 616 applications from the depressed and landless classes involving an aggregate extent of 4,538 acres and 16 guntas were sanctioned as per Government Order No. R. 4850-8—L. R. 261-22-141, dated the 29th March 1924. Government observe with satisfaction that the scheme is progressing steadily as evidenced by the larger grants of lands to depressed classes year by year. The pending applications, which are large, particularly in the Districts of Bangalore, Tumkur and Mysore, should be expeditiously disposed of.

11. *Vani Vilas Sagara.*—With an addition of 5 acres 28 guntas during the year the total area under the blocks was 12.375 acres and 3 guntas. The area under occupation at the end of the year was 10,215 acres 9 guntas with a demand of Rs.164,537 as against 10,241 acres 6 guntas at the close of the previous year. Including Rs. 31,612 being the uncollected demand of the previous year representing the penal water rate and fine levied on excess cultivation within the block and unauthorised cultivation outside, the total demand for the year was Rs. 96,149 of which a sum of Rs. 76,085 was collected, leaving a balance of Rs. 20,064. The work of classification of lands under the Vani Vilas Sagara, as ordered in Government Order No. R. 3297-9—L. R. 13-22-17, dated 19th January 1924 was completed during the year, and on the recommendation of the Special Committee appointed for the purpose of examining the working of the Block System and suggesting measures of improvement, the water rate was enhanced from Rs. 5 to Rs. 8 per acre for a period of 5 years with effect from 1st July 1925. The representation of the raiyats to reduce the rate has been considered by Government and orders issued in Government Order No. R. 3089-94—L. R. 13-25-10, dated 18th December 1925.

Jamabandy.—The Jamabandy was completed before the Khistbundi in 56 Taluks and Sub-Taluks. Chitaldrug was the only District in which Jamabandy of all the Taluks was completed before the commencement of the collection season. It is unsatisfactory to note that the Jamabandy of Kunigal, Sagar and Tarikere Taluks was finished only in the month of May 1925. The reasons assigned for the delay in the completion of Jamabandy in time are not acceptable to Government. In their Order No. R. 2280-88—L. R. 31-24-23, dated 9th November 1925 Government have already conveyed a warning to the Amildars who were responsible for not getting the accounts ready in time for Huzur Jamabandy. The Jamabandy Officers also cannot be absolved from blame in this respect. With the exercise of better supervison over the Amildars and adherence to a carefully drawn up programme, it should be possible for the Jamabandy Officers to complete the Jamabandy of all Taluks before the commencement of the collection season.

12. *Demand, Collection and Balance of Land Revenue.*—The total demand including arrears under Land Revenue and Land Revenue Miscellaneous was Rs. 1,38,84,043 for 1924-25 as against Rs. 1,31,67,552 in the previous year, the

increase of Rs. 7,16,491 being mainly accounted for by suspended collection of the year 1923-24. The current demand for the year 1924-25 was Rs. 1,22,52,152 as compared with Rs. 1,21,77,727 in the year previous. There was an improvement of Rs. 1,65,658 in the current demand under Land Revenue which was counterbalanced by a fall of Rs. 91,233 under Land Revenue Miscellaneous. The increase in the current demand was mainly in the Districts of Bangalore, Kolar, Mysore and Hassan due partly to expansion of cultivation and chiefly to the introduction of revised rates of assessment in the marginally noted Taluks, or portions thereof. Except in Bangalore and Mysore Districts, there was a decrease under Land Revenue Miscellaneous. Government consider that adequate attention is not paid to the development of the miscellaneous items of Land Revenue, and more vigilant action by Revenue Officers is called for in this connection.

Hoskote, Devanhalli, Mulbagal, Mysore, Hunsur, Nagamangala, Manjarabad, Channarayapatna and Arsikere.

Collection.—Out of the net recoverable demand of Rs. 1,37,51,107 a sum of Rs. 1,22,46,484 was collected during the year. The percentage of collection was 89·1 for the whole State being an increase of 1·4 per cent over that of the previous year. The percentage of collections out of arrears was 78·7 as against 71·7 in the previous year. The collection under current demand was also better than that of the previous year, being 90·6 per cent against 89·0 per cent. Government note with satisfaction the good work done by the Amildars of the marginally noted Taluks, where the percentage of collection was more than 95 per cent under Land Revenue including Land Revenue Miscellaneous.

1 Kankanhalli
2 Gundlupet
3 Holalkere
4 Jagalur
5 Davangere
6 Channagiri
7 Nagar
8 Devanhalli
9 Magadi
10 Channapatna
11 Hosdurga
12 Malvalli
13 Challakere
14 Anekal
15 Sorab
16 Nelamangala
17 Mulbagal
18 Dodballapur
19 Honnali
20 Srinivaspur
21 Alur
22 Chitaldrug
23 Chintamani
24 Kadur

Arrears.—The arrears at the end of the year were heavy being so much as Rs. 15,04,623 of which about Rs. 12 lakhs were due to be collected in the four Districts of Mysore, Tumkur, Kolar and Hassan. The Amildars of the 22 Taluks having arrears exceeding Rs. 25,000 should be warned to put forth their best efforts for recovering the entire balance before the next collection season.

13. *Co-ecive Processes.*—There was an increase of 10,527 in the number of coercive processes of several kinds issued during the year, the number being 144,351 as against 133,824 in the previous year; and the amount realised thereby was also correspondingly larger being Rs. 14,67,399 as against Rs. 13,60,096 in the previous year. The mere issue of demand notices was sufficient in a large number of cases for realising the amount due. Though 1,05,655 notices of demand were issued under Section 158 of the Land Revenue Code, only 33,915 sale notifications were issued and in only 7,509 cases sales were actually held. Similarly there was an increase in the number of cases of distraint and sale of the movable properties under Section 160, Land Revenue Code, during the year. There were no cases of arrest and imprisonment under Section 163, Land Revenue Code.

14. *Co-operative Societies Decrees.*—Greater attention is required on the part of Revenue Officers to speed up the execution of co-operative decrees. Out of 4,160 decrees pending execution, 1,797 decrees were executed, leaving a large balance of 2,363 at the end of the year. Government hope that as a result of the scheme sanctioned in Government Order No. I. C. 5034-6, dated the 24th January 1925, for the appointment of special shekdars, there will be appreciable progress in the execution of these decrees in the current year.

15. *Takavi and Land Improvement Loans.*—Besides the Budget provision of Rs. 65,000 for the year 1924-25 for grant of Takavi and Land Improvement Loans, special grants to the extent of Rs. 4,00,678 were sanctioned for the localities affected by drought and by floods. Loans amounting to Rs. 4,31,246 were actually disbursed. Out of the total demand, including arrears of Rs. 1,85,575, a sum of Rs. 1,09,672 was collected, leaving a large balance of Rs. 75,903. The percentage of collections to the demand was 59·09 as against 66·78 in the previous year. The poor collection is partly attributed to the unfavourable seasonal conditions in Kolar and Tumkur Districts and Government have sanctioned the postponement of loan instalments in Government Order No. R. 776-8—R. M. 31-24-46, dated 14—17th August 1925. But in other Districts, the collection should have been more brisk.

16. *Village Improvement Scheme.*—A sum of Rs. 35,000 was provided for Village Improvement Works during 1924-25 besides Rs. 8,000 allotted to the Tumkur and Kolar Districts, specially out of the provision for Distress Relief Measures. The total expenditure during the year was Rs. 22,945 of which Rs. 15,115 were utilised for works in the 2 Districts of Kolar and Tumkur. There was no satisfactory progress in the execution of Village Improvement Works in several Districts. With the liberal concessions sanctioned in Government Order No. R. 153-162—R. M. 2-25-1, dated 11th July 1925, by which the Government contribution is raised from one-third to one-half the estimated cost of works, it is hoped that works of Village Improvement will be taken up more largely in the future.

17. *District and Taluk Conferences.*—Except in the Hassan District, conferences of officials and non-officials were held as usual in almost all the District and Taluk Headquarters Towns in the State. The major and minor wants in the Districts and Taluks concerned were considered and lectures on Agriculture, Sericulture, Co-operation, Sanitation, etc., were delivered during such conferences. It is gratifying to note that the non-official people evinced much interest in organising the several conferences and making them a success.

18. *Avenue Trees.*—The Revenue Commissioner's report does not show that sufficient attention is paid by Revenue Officers to the conservation of avenue trees. The work of numbering of avenue trees is still in an incomplete stage. Vacant pits are not filled up, the lopping and destruction of avenue trees go unnoticed and new trees when planted are not looked after. The question of placing the administration of avenue trees on a better footing is under the consideration of Government.

19. *Tonks.*—Government are glad to note that the inspection of tanks by the Revenue Officers during the year was better than in previous years. Two hundred and seventy-seven major tanks and 286 minor tanks were inspected by the Deputy Commissioners of Districts and 409 major and 915 minor tanks by the Sub-Division Officers. Out of 243 Chowthayi tanks, only 140 tanks were in action and 162 were inspected during the year.

20. *Raingauge Stations.*—Out of 230 stations in the State, 19 stations were not inspected during the year. Of those that were not inspected, as many as 10 relate to Tumkur District. This is unsatisfactory.

21. *Takrar Cases.*—The total number of takrar cases received during the year was 20,248 as against 14,694 in the previous year, of which only 8,876 cases were disposed of as against 9,039 in the previous year. The heavy pendency is not creditable to the officers concerned. The Revenue Commissioner is requested to carefully scrutinize the progress in the disposal of takrar cases by obtaining periodical returns from the Deputy Commissioners. All the pending cases should be got disposed of early.

22. *Village Officers.*—There was some increase in the number of cases of punishments of village officers during the year and this is said to be due to slackness of collection work and unauthorised absence, neglect of duties, etc. Government are glad to note the progress made in the matter of the removal of illiterate Patels as well as replacement of Gumastha Shanbhogs and Patels by Hakdars themselves. In order to improve the efficiency of these village officers, certain qualifications were prescribed in Government Order No. R. 6238-48—L. R. 261-22-167, dated the 21st April 1925. Government hope that the introduction of this reform will result in bringing in a better class of Shanbhogs and Patels into service.

23. *Shekdars.*—The number of old scheme shekdars has been reduced from 94 to 72. In accordance with the scheme sanctioned in Government Order No. R. 1372-81—L. R. 395-22-6, dated the 20th August 1924, 4 Shekdari Probationers were appointed during the year under review. The Revenue Commissioner is requested to expedite his proposals for the reduction of Hoblis and improvement of the pay and prospects of Shekdars.

24. *Inspections.*—Government note with satisfaction that the inspection work done by the Deputy Commissioners and the Sub-Division Officers showed improvement in the year of report. There was also an improvement in the touring made by the Sub-Division Officers. All the Taluk Treasuries except that of Bagepalli were inspected twice by the District Treasury Officers as directed in Government Order

No. R. 3395-404—R. M. 16-23-2, dated the 24th January 1924, All the Taluk Offices were inspected by the Deputy Commissioners and the Sub-Division Officers concerned.

25. *Conclusion.* The Administration of the Revenue Department during the year was on the whole satisfactory. The year was generally prosperous to the agriculturist in spite of flood damages in the Districts of Mysore, Hassan, Kadur and Shimoga and the drought which affected certain parts of the Kolar and Tumkur Districts. The carrying out of the several measures sanctioned by Government for relief of distress caused a heavy strain on the officers of Government, who discharged the task expected of them with commendable zeal and enthusiasm. There was noticeable improvement in the working of the Revenue Offices. Collection work was satisfactory and inspection fair. The volume of work in the Revenue Offices is increasing and in order to improve the despatch of work, Government introduced during the year various measures of reform. A new system of office procedure which aims at minimising scriptory work first introduced in the Hassan District was extended to the Bangalore District. The Revenue Commissioner's report on the result of this scheme is awaited for sanctioning its adoption in the other districts also, where work has in the meantime been simplified by certain modifications effected in the existing Disposal Number System. The simplified form of the Disposal Number System sanctioned in Government Order No. R. 7201-9—L. R. 155-19-2, dated 22nd December 1919, for certain taluks has been extended to all the Taluks in the State. Re-distribution of work in the important sections of the District Offices and amongst the officials of the Sub-Division and Taluk Offices according to subjects has been effected, with a view to improve efficiency.

Government appointed in their Order No. 978-1028—C. B. 78-24-1, dated the 23rd October 1924, a Special Officer called the Inspector of Office Systems and Officer in charge of Revenue Audit for a period of one year charged with the duty of inspecting the accounts and procedure in the various revenue earning departments of the State and suggesting measures for effecting improvements, with a view to safeguard Government revenue and maintain its development. His attention was devoted mostly to the Land Revenue Department during the year under review. As a result of his recommendations a revised scheme of Land Revenue Accounts and Forms has been introduced with effect from 1st July 1925, and work in the District Offices has been further simplified by the curtailment of a number of unnecessary registers and returns. Government have also passed orders accepting the suggestion that Kannada should be the language of official correspondence in Revenue Offices below that of the Deputy Commissioner. With the several measures of reform already sanctioned and the co-operation of District Officers in administering them, Government hope that a decided improvement will be shown in the Administration of the Land Revenue Department of the State.

B. SRINIVASA IYENGAR,
Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department.

Probationary Shekdars.

READ—

Government Order No. R. 1372-81—L. R. 373-22-6, dated the 20th August 1924, sanctioning a scheme for direct recruitment of Probationary Shekdars.

2. Letter No. C. 165—25-26, dated the 29th December 1925, from the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, stating that the period of one month fixed in the above order for training of the probationers in a Taluk in the preparation and maintenance of village accounts is very short and suggesting that the period of training of the probationers now fixed at 10 months may be extended to 12 months so as to admit of Taluk Office training and Hobli training for a period of 3 months.

ORDER No. R. 3461-70—L. R. 337-25-2, DATED 16TH JANUARY 1926.

The suggestion of the Revenue Commissioner is approved.

B. SRINIVASA IYENGAR,
Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department.